



# O.F.F. NEWS



Published by  
**OATLEY FLORA & FAUNA  
CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC.**

Print Post App. No. PP 255003/03239

Issue: 2006/9

September/October 2006

## CHILE AND CHILLIER

Would you like to experience a marvellous trip from the Atacama Desert to Patagonia, and then on to the Antarctic Peninsula on a Russian ship? Gary and Bronlyn Schoer will take us on this trip in their presentation at our next monthly meeting (details overleaf). Gary refers to Antarctica as 'an awesome and terrifying example of what the white continent can do to put humans in their place'. He also says that no one can see it without becoming a 'lifetime advocate for it to be a world park'. As active community group members, Gary is Secretary of the Southern Sydney Branch of National Parks Association and Bronlyn is President of Zonta, a women's service group. We look forward to their visit on 25th September and are very pleased to have them as our guest speakers.

## BONNET BAY FIELD DAY

On 2nd September, 14 members and one visitor completed the Bonnet Bay walk in perfect weather conditions. The climb up the hill at the start was well worth the effort, with great views of the Woronora River and high level bridge leading to Menai. Lots of Spring flowers were in bloom and there was a very pleasant lunch stop on the boardwalk in The Glen Bushland Reserve. Proceeding on, we looked at an Aboriginal midden and ceremonial cave, and then the well-known Blackhand Cave, finishing the 6 km walk at Grant Place. (Report by Heather Mackey, leader)

## SNOWY MOUNTAINS 2007 ?

Think about joining us for a week at Smiggin Holes in January 2007 ! Details in the next O.F.F. News.

## CELEBRATE 50 YEARS BY CREATING HABITAT !

Come along to Yawolloh Reserve on Saturday 7th October to plant out a grassy area with shrubs and ground covers. This is a joint activity with Hurstville Council to celebrate O.F.F.'s 50th Anniversary last year, and it's a practical way to improve our local environment. You can also see the locally rare samphire (*Sarcocornia quinqueflora*) growing nearby. Bring a trowel, gloves and sun protection, and wear closed shoes. Meet at 9.30 am at lower end of Pamela Ave, Peakhurst, just across the foot-bridge from Oatley Park. Inquiries: Matt Allison 0408 605 923.

## ANNUAL DINNER 2006

### DON'T FORGET TO BOOK

Friday 20th October, 7pm

Roslyn Gardens, 764 Forest Road Peakhurst

**\$30 per person for pre-dinner savouries, a two course meal and tea/coffee. Bookings to be finalised by Wednesday 11th October. Robin Dickson will be taking bookings and payments at the next meeting, or can be contacted on 9580 5663.**

## FIGURE 8 POOLS: 'WONDERFUL WALK'

This is the apt description of our next field day by Vice President Julian Sheen. He says 'If you haven't seen these beautiful coastal rock pools then you have missed out - till now! If you have seen them - then you will want to go again...and again! Your next chance, as detailed overleaf, will be on Saturday 30th September.

## GLOBAL WARMING DISCUSSION

Sustainable Population Australia is hosting an open public forum on global warming and ecologically sustainable development at the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street Sydney at 3.15 pm on Saturday, 14th October. Ian McGregor, an acknowledged expert on these topics, will be the main speaker with a presentation entitled 'Power, Precautionary Principle and Planetary Fever', and audience participation in the discussion will be encouraged. For further information, call Gordon on 9528 6091 or email [nsw@population.org.au](mailto:nsw@population.org.au)

## OATLEY PARK IN SPRING

Many wildflower species are in bloom in Oatley Park during the September-November period, including:

- Eggs and Bacon (*Dillwynia retorta*)
- Wedding Bush (*Ricinocarpus pinifolia*)
- Shiny Guinea Flower (*Hibbertia nitida*)
- Blue Dampiera (*Dampiera stricta*)
- Fuchsia Heath (*Epacris longiflora*)
- Rough Wax-flower (*Philotheca scabra*)
- Green Spider Flower (*Grevillea mucronulata*)
- Pink Spider Flower (*G. sericea*)
- Red Bean (*Kennedia rubicunda*)
- Small-leaf Daisy (*Olearia microphylla*).

(thanks to Alan Fairley for this list)

Meetings are held at the **Uniting Church Hall, Frederick Street, Oatley.**  
(near the corner of Letitia Street)

It is intended that meetings commence promptly at 7.45 pm.

Visitors and accompanied children are welcome to attend all meetings and field days.

## Coming Events

**September 25th (Monday) REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING.** 7.45 pm. Gary Schoer will give a presentation entitled 'Chile and Chillier - Antarctica via Patagonia'.

**September 30th (Saturday) FIELD DAY. FIGURE 8 POOL, ROYAL NATIONAL PARK.** Meet at Garawarra Farmhouse car park which is off the Garie Beach Road. Turn right almost immediately after turning left off the main Sir Bertram Stevens Drive through the Royal National Park from Sydney. Go along the dirt track to the car park area. We will meet at 9.30 am for morning tea and a 10 am departure. We go down the hill to Burning Palms then along the rocky shore to the shelf where the pools are. We will then return to the track and come up the hill via the Werrong lookout and the fire trail back to the car park.

It's a good walk with magnificent coastal scenery. There is some tricky rock clambering - but well worth it. Bring lunch, water, hat and stout walking shoes. Leaders: Annette and Julian Sheen 9594 4888.

**October 23rd (Monday) REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING.** 7.45 pm. Debbie Andrew will speak on 'Ecology of the Tiger Quoll - a threatened species'.

### STATE PLAN FOR WHOM ?

A draft of the NSW Government's latest 'State Plan' may be viewed at [www.nsw.gov.au/stateplan](http://www.nsw.gov.au/stateplan). The final version should be influenced by the outcomes of 'community forums' at 25 locations throughout NSW. One of these forums was held at the Hurstville Entertainment Centre on 5th September, and one of the community representatives 'randomly invited' to attend was myself. To obtain the views of O.F.F. members I circulated by email a list of 29 'priority areas' from the draft plan. This resulted in a number of helpful responses for which I express my thanks.

The forum was in two sessions each of which was attended by several Government ministers (including the Premier at one session), senior bureaucrats, and 30 to 40 community representatives. In the session I attended, so many different issues were discussed that a consensus on priorities did not seem possible, and was not sought. Nevertheless, summaries of 'major issues raised' and 'major challenges' were later posted on the website. These included the need to improve public transport, schools, health care, relationships with local government, Georges River water quality, and the affordability of housing. No one would deny these needs, but how and why they were selected as the major issues, and their relevance for a State Plan are matters for speculation. (report by Fred Bell)

### O.F.F. OBJECTS CHANGED

The proposal to modify the objects of the Society, as set out in an attachment to the May/June issue of O.F.F. News, was passed at the Special General meeting of 26th June.

### VERY BRIEFLY ....

**Wildflower Walk, Bardwell Park:** September 24, 9am-12 noon, Wollie Creek Preservation Society. Free. Bookings: 9554 3176 or [info@wolliecreek.org.au](mailto:info@wolliecreek.org.au).

**World Habitat Day:** October 3

**Bringing Birds into Backyards Workshop:** October 3, Tuesday, 7-9 pm, Maiden Theatre, Royal Botanic Gardens. Cost \$5 per person. Bookings: 0407 002 921

**Yawolloh Reserve planting:** October 7, Saturday, 9.30 am, end of Pamela Ave, Peakhurst (see p.1).

**Wildflower tour with Alan Fairley:** October 10, Tuesday, 9.30am to 12.30pm, Royal National Park eucalypt woodlands (see last issue of O.F.F. News). Cost \$20 per person. Bookings in advance essential, NPWS Discovery Program: 9542 0649 or 9542 0666.

**National Water Week:** October 15-21.

**Rainforest birds tour with Steve Anyon-Smith:** October 29, Sunday morning, Royal National Park. Cost \$30 per person. Further details and bookings, NPWS Discovery Program: 9542 0649 or 9542 0666

### DID YOU KNOW ?

**Australians consumed 550 million litres of bottled water last year and the rate is rising. According to author Emily Arnold, the processing, and transportation of bottled water, and disposal of its containers 'involves burning massive quantities of fossil fuels.....in contrast to tap water which is distributed through an energy efficient infrastructure'. (from Blue Mountains Conservation Society Newsletter *Hut News*, No. 229 Sept 2006)**